

Office of the Independent Monitor

Modified Consent Decree
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August 7, 2014

Deneen Evans Cox
Associate General Counsel
LAUSD, Office of the General Counsel
333 South Beaudry Avenue, 20th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90017

Dear Ms. Cox:

I have reviewed your Aug. 6, 2014, letter regarding the District's request to make changes to the frequency usage requirements of the MiSIS Gradebook. The letter and attached Aug. 1, 2014 Informative to the Board of Education and Superintendent, give several reasons for the proposed changes from mandating the full implementation of the Gradebook from the beginning of this school year to Nov. 17, 2014 and Jan. 12, 2015, for elementary and secondary teachers, respectively.

It is the understanding of the Office of the Independent Monitor (OIM) that all of the preparations for the full implementation of the Gradebook module of MiSIS have been completed by the MiSIS team. Further, the District met this requirement in August 2013 and have piloted the program as well as provided training to educators over the past year. Since then, feedback from educators regarding the Gradebook has been incorporated into the enhancements of the module with several hundred teachers having used the program with no known major obstacles. Based on the OIM's ongoing monitoring, the MiSIS team's training approach has been tested, refined and readied for rollout as scheduled with Milestone #8.

It is apparent that the District's decision not to implement the MiSIS gradebook at this time has little to do with the technical work done or readiness of the module. It appears, rather, that this decision is based on factors other than the system readiness. It is unclear in both your letter and in the Informative how this delay will prevent similar problems in the future. This decision, once made, deems the District's effort toward achieving Milestone #8 as not meeting the requirements.

The District's actions did not include thorough consultation with the OIM and no consultation with the plaintiffs. There is sufficient history to adhere to the expectation that any proposed changes to the MiSIS Implementation Plan be provided to the parties in advance of any decisions being made. The timing of such request also creates a difficult situation for the IM and the plaintiffs to agree to such changes, since the denial of this request carries serious implications to the educators and particularly parents who will not benefit from the ineffective implementation of the Gradebook module. Given this, the District must go forward with these modifications because the alternative will be of no benefit and lead to misinformation to parents.

There are still significant challenges to overcome in the implementation process, most notably getting all charter schools on board with MiSIS. If there are additional issues and/or changes to be proposed to the MiSIS Plan, the District must follow the process agreed upon by the parties. These proposals must be provided with sufficient anticipation and not a few days before the rollout. To be clear, it is the OIM's expectation that all charter schools will be using MiSIS beginning this school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Rostetter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

David Rostetter, Ph.D.
Independent Monitor

c: John Deasy, Matt Hill, Ron Chandler, David Holmquist, Robert Myers, Catherine Blakemore, Sharyn Howell, Diane Pappas, Brigitte Ammons, Veronica Smith